

## Message Text

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16  
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 EUR-12 OES-03 COME-00 SAM-01 /094 W  
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R 080651Z AUG 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2331  
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR JA KS KN  
SUBJ: MIKI VISIT: MEDIA COVERAGE

REF: TOKYO 10951

SUMMARY. VERNACULAR PRESS COVERAGE AUGUST 8 FOCUSED ON INTERPRETATION OF THE KOREA-RELATED CLAUSES OF THE JOINT PRESS RELEASE AND OPPOSITION PARTIES' GENERALLY UNFAVORABLE REACTION. NOT SUPRISINGLY, IT ALSO CONTAINED MODERATELY CRITICAL EDITORIAL COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE VERNACULAR PRESS AUGUST 8 PERCEIVED CLEAR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN U.S. VIEW OF KOREA WHICH EMPHASIZES IMMEDIATE SECURITY OF SOUTH KOREA AND DANGER OF NORTH KOREAN MISCALCULATION AND JAPANESE VIEW WHICH STRESSES LONGER TERM GOAL OF REDUCING TENSIONS ON ENTIRE PENINSULA IMPLYING SOME SORT OF MEANINGFUL CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREANS. PRESS ALSO SAW IMPORTANT NUANCE BETWEEN PRIMIN MIKI'S VIEWS ON KOREAN  
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SITUATION AND THOSE OF FOREIGN OFFICE. PRIMIN MIKI, FOR EXAMPLE,

CONSCIOUSLY AVOIDED EXPLICIT REAFFIRMATION OF 1969 NIXON-SATO COMMUNIQUE PHRASING (SECURITY OF SOUTH KOREA IS ESSENTIAL TO THAT OF JAPAN), WHILE FONMIN MIYAZAWA IN U.S. AND FONMIN SPOKESMAN HERE ENCOURAGED PRESS TO INTERPRET KOREA-RELATED JOINT COMMUNIQUE TEXT AS REAFFIRMATION OF 1969 KOREA CLAUSE.

2. PRESS SURVEYS OF THE RULING LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY INDICATE GENERAL SATISFACTION THROUGHOUT THE PARTY. LDP HAWKS WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE FINAL SHAPE OF THE KOREA CLAUSES WHILE DOVES, SOMEWHAT LESS HAPPY, INDICATED THEY COULD LIVE WITH NEW FORMULATION. PREDICTABLY, MOST CRITICAL VOICE CAME FROM MEMBER OF ANTI-MIKI OHIRA FACTION WHO FOUND LITTLE SUBSTANCE IN WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS. HE ALSO WARNED OF DANGERS OF SECRET MEETINGS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS. (FONMIN MIYAZAWA, WHO WAS NOT INCLUDED IN MIKI'S UNSCHEDULED MEETING, IS AN OHIRA FACTION MEMBER.) OFFICIALLY, THE LDP WAS MOST PLEASED, DESCRIBING THE SUMMIT RESULTS AS "EPOCHAL."

3. AS WAS EXPECTED, OPPOSITION PARTIES EXCEPT FOR THE DSP WERE SHARPLY CRITICAL. THE SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS AND KOMEITO CONCENTRATED THEIR FIRE ON THE KOREAN CLAUSES. THESE THEY SAID REFLECTED A PROFOUND MISUNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT ASIAN REALITIES, AN UNFORTUNATE REAFFIRMATION OF THE STATUS QUO WITH REGARD TO KOREA, AND A DANGEROUS STRENGTHENING OF A U.S.-JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA SECURITY SETUP. IN A MUCH MORE MODERATE REACTION, THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS CRITICIZED ONLY THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON CONCRETE MEASURES TO REDUCE TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND FAILURE TO ESTABLISH A POLITICAL MECHANISM TO IMPLEMENT THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY.

4. PRESS EDITORIALS AUGUST 8 WERE MODERATELY CRITICAL OF THE SUMMIT RESULTS AND COMMUNIQUE. THEY, TOO, TENDED TO CONCENTRATE ON KOREA, EXPRESSING SOME UNHAPPINESS THAT THE STATUS QUO HAD BEEN REAFFIRMED. WHAT MOST PAPERS HAD HOPED FOR WAS AGREEMENT ON A LONG RANGE PLAN FOR REDUCING TENSIONS IN THE PENINSULA. AT LEAST TWO PAPERS CRITICIZED PRIME MIKI'S "SECRET TALKS" WITH THE PRESIDENT; MOST NOTED U.S. INTEREST IN JAPANESE RATIFICATION OF THE NPT. THE CONSERVATIVE SANKEI WAS THE ONLY PAPER TO WELCOME THE "NEW START" IN U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS.

5. COMMENT. NEARLY ALL OF THIS REACTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREDICTED BEFORE MIKI LEFT TOKYO. WHAT WAS NOT CLEAR WAS REACTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHIN THE LDP WHICH IS MORE FAVORABLE THAN SEEMED LIKELY, AND THE DEGREE OF MEDIA CRITICISM WHICH IS MORE RESTRAINED THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A MODEST PUBLIC RELATIONS SUCCESS FOR MIKI IN THE DOMESTIC ARENA. IF SO, IT WILL BE SHORT-LIVED, HOWEVER, FOR THE MEDIA HAS ALREADY TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO THE NEXT MAJOR POLITICAL EVENT IN JAPAN: THE SPECIAL DIET SESSION SCHEDULED FOR EARLY SEPTEMBER. WITH DISSOLUTION FEVER RUNNING HIGH, THE SOCIALISTS ALSO MADE THE PAPERS AUGUST 8 WITH

THEIR DECISION TO "OVERTHROW" THE MIKI CABINET. SO FAR AS THE  
MEDIA IS CONCERNED, MIKI'S U.S. VISIT IS OVER.  
SHOESMITH

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